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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : BRUSSELS

DESP. NO. 5 OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS — July 6, 1951 DATE

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON. — MESSAGE: AIR POUCH — PRIORITY

REF : Embtel 2079 of June 29, 1951

SUBJECT: Ceremonies of Abdication and Accession

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EUR INDEX
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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RECD July 12

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There follows a translation of an undated note (Protocole No. 35) from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Commerce on the subject of the abdication of King Leopold III and the accession of King Baudouin which indicates that only Chiefs of Mission will be invited to the accession of King Baudouin.

Begin translation:

"The Department of Foreign Affairs believes it will be agreeable to foreign Diplomatic Missions accredited to Belgium to inform them that the abdication of His Majesty, King Leopold III will take place on July 16, 1951 at the Palace of Brussels before a certain number of Belgian personalities.

"King Baudouin will take the constitutional oath before a joint session of Parliament on July 17.

"The Chiefs of Diplomatic Missions and their wives will be asked to attend this last ceremony by a special invitation which will be addressed to them later.

"Special foreign missions, as well as foreign personalities, even of high rank, are not expected on this occasion.

"A solemn Te Deum will be sung on the traditional date of July 21 in the presence of the Diplomatic Corps and of Belgian authorities.

"Two or three days after this date, there will take place at the Palace of Brussels a diplomatic reception /cercle diplomatique/ which will include the Chiefs of Missions regularly accredited to the Chief of State, and their wives.

"The date and hour of this audience will be announced later."

End of translation.

For the Ambassador:
Chalmers B. Wood
Third Secretary of Embassy

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